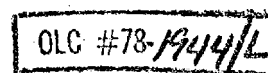
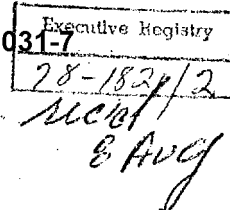


*Clearance*

SENDER WILL CHECK CLASSIFICATION TOP AND BOTTOM			
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<b>OFFICIAL ROUTING SLIP</b>			
TO	NAME AND ADDRESS	DATE	INITIALS
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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ACTION	<input type="checkbox"/> DIRECT REPLY	<input type="checkbox"/> PREPARE REPLY
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<input type="checkbox"/>	CONCURRENCE	<input type="checkbox"/> INFORMATION	<input type="checkbox"/> SIGNATURE
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July 31, 1978

The Honorable Walter Mondale  
President of the Senate  
United States Senate  
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Fritz:

It has come to my attention that the Director of Central Intelligence has proposed in a July 21 letter to you to deny access to sensitive intelligence information to personal staff members. As a member of the Defense Subcommittee of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I deeply regret the DCI's proposal and I urge you to critique his guidelines for the issuance of compartmented clearances.

I am sure that I do not have to tell you, so perhaps it is the CIA that should be told of the daily frenetic pace of the individual Senator who, perforce, does not have time to keep in regular contact with cleared committee staff personnel. Accordingly, I must rely upon my personal staff assistant, Leonard Parkinson, for on-the-spot briefings of, for recent examples, encrypted telemetry, the throw-weight of the SS-19, verification problems associated with a Soviet mobile ICBM system, and a variety of other sensitive subjects essential to my own decision-making regarding strategic arms control, the defense budget, and other key military-political matters. Without his regular access to compartmented information, we would ultimately be relying on Aviation Week and the few other journals that regularly leak bits of sensitive data.

An in-depth understanding of the strategic weapon systems is particularly essential at this time. We are on the eve of important SALT agreement with the Soviet Union, and thus an

The Honorable Walter Mondale  
July 31, 1978  
Page Two

intense debate on the Senate floor. I want to have at hand a full understanding of the substantive hardware issues that will be involved, and I know that I will have to rely on my staff aide for the details which can only be the product of compartmented intelligence information.

Looking forward to hearing from you on this matter.

Sincerely,

Dale Bumpers

DB:llm

cc: DCI Stansfield Turner  
Senator John C. Stennis  
Senator Warren G. Magnuson